

OFFICIAL

**AMENDED MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY SCHOOL
COMMITTEE: 12.11.08**

**AMENDMENT: Page 5, Line 1; “Roll call vote?” to reflect Mr. Kelly’s
vote as “No” by Mr. Kelly.**

1

**1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE
PLANTATIONS**

2

3 Proceedings At:

4 School Committee Town of Cumberland

5

6

IN RE: School Committee Meeting

7

DATE: Thursday, November 13, 2008

8

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Cumberland High School

9

Auditorium

2600 Mendon Road

10

Cumberland, RI

11

12 **School Committee Members:**

13 **Donald J. Costa, Chairman**

Earl T. Wood, Vice Chairman

14 **Brian Pearson, Clerk**

Lisa Beaulieu

15 **Rosa Crowley**

Dan Pedro

16 **Brian Kelly**

17

APPEARANCES:

18

FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

19

Joseph A. Rotella, Esquire

20

21 **ALSO PRESENT:**

22 Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D./Superintendent
Susan C. Carney, Ph.D./Assistant

23

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1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 7:30 P.M.)

2 MR. ROTELLA: May I have a motion

3 to approve the agenda?

4 MR. COSTA: So moved.

5 MRS. CROWLEY: Second.

6 MR. ROTELLA: Motion by Mr. Costa,

7 second by Mrs. Crowley. All those in favor,
8 opposed? The ayes have it. The next order of
9 business is the swearing in of new members. We
10 have the mayor of the town, Mayor McKee here
11 this evening to administer that oath of office.
12 I would ask everybody to rise.

13 MR. MCKEE: Well, thank you, very
14 much, and it's a pleasure to be here tonight to
15 swear in the school committees and elected
16 officials in the Town of Cumberland, they all
17 carry a great deal of responsibility, and I'm
18 sure that this committee is going to do a great
19 job living up to that responsibility of working

20 on behalf of our community and also on behalf of
21 the young people that attend our schools.

22 So I'm happy to be here, and if you
23 could raise your right hand and repeat after me
24 and just fill in your name:

25 I (name) have been duly elected, a

3

1 member of the school committee, of the Town of
2 Cumberland do solemnly swear that I will support
3 the constitution and the laws of the United
4 States of America and the State of Rhode Island,

5 and that I will honestly, faithfully and
6 impartially discharge the duties of the school
7 committee personally, to the best of my ability.
8 Congratulations.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 MS. MORELLE: I'd like to thank you
11 for joining us this evening, and I'd also like
12 to extend on behalf of the administration our
13 congratulations, and welcome the Cumberland
14 School Committee for the 2008-2010 term. We all
15 look forward to working with you in
16 accomplishing the goals of the Strategic Plan,
17 and we expect the next two years to be a very

18 productive and very exciting time for the
19 Cumberland Public Schools.

20 At the end of the evening, I will
21 take the paperwork that you signed, bring it
22 back to the office, we'll file it accordingly
23 and you get the copies that you need. Again,
24 congratulations.

25 MR. ROTELLA: The next item is New

1 Business: A. Election of Offices. I will open
2 up the floor for nominations for election of a

3 chairperson of the Cumberland School Committee.

4 MR. PEARSON: I'd like to nominate

5 Don Costa for the position of chairperson,

6 Cumberland School Committee.

7 MR. WOOD: Second.

8 MR. ROTELLA: Motion was made by

9 Mr. Pearson, seconded by Mr. Wood. Any further

10 nominations? Are there any further nominations?

11 Are there any further nominations for

12 chairperson of the Cumberland School Committee?

13 With that, I would entertain a motion to close

14 the nominations.

15 MR. PEARSON: So moved.

16 MR. WOOD: Second.

17 MR. ROTELLA: All those in favor,

18 all those opposed?

19 MRS. CROWLEY: No.

20 MR. ROTELLA: That's a 6 to 1 vote.

21 Roll call vote?

22 MRS. CROWLEY: No.

23 MR. PEDRO: Yes.

24 MR. COSTA: Yes.

25 MR. WOOD: Yes.

1 MR. KELLY: Yes.

2 MS. BEAULIEU: No.

3 MR. PEARSON: Yes.

4 MR. ROTELLA: A 5 to 2 vote.

5 Mr. Costa, congratulations, you have been

6 elected chairperson of the Cumberland School

7 Committee.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Costa, are you

10 going to take care of the balance of the

11 election, or would you like me to do it?

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'll handle it from

13 here. Next we have is the vice chair.

14 **MR. KELLY:** Mr. Rotella, that was a
15 motion to close the nominations, not for the
16 vote for the chair.

17 **MR. ROTELLA:** No, that was a vote
18 to close the nominations for the chairperson,
19 and he did.

20 **MR. KELLY:** No, no. He voted to
21 close the nominations. That was the vote.

22 **MR. ROTELLA:** It was a 6 to 1 vote
23 to close nominations, and then we went through a
24 roll call vote. If you would, Mr. Kelly, I'll
25 ask the stenographer to go back and pull that up

1 for a second.

2 MR. KELLY: No, that's fine.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we have the
4 position of vice chairman. Any nominations for
5 vice chair?

6 MR. PEARSON: I'd like to nominate
7 Earl Wood for the position of vice chairman.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pearson
9 nominates Earl Wood for vice chair. Is there a
10 second?

11 MR. PEDRO: Second.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by Mr. Pedro?

13 Any further nominations for vice chair?

14 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Costa, would you

15 make three calls.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further

17 nominations for vice chair? Any other

18 nominations for vice chair? Hearing none. I

19 deem the vice chair position closed. Roll call

20 vote?

21 MR. PEARSON: I move to elect Earl

22 Wood to the Cumberland School Committee.

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr. Brian

24 Pearson to elect vice chairman Earl Wood. We

25 have a second already, second by Mr. Pedro. A

7

1 roll call vote?

2 MRS. CROWLEY: No.

3 MR. PEDRO: Yes.

4 MR. WOOD: Yes.

5 MR. KELLY: Yes.

6 MS. BEAULIEU: No.

7 MR. PEARSON: Yes.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: The chair votes yes.

9 5 to 2, Mr. Wood is the vice chair.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, sorry. Mr.

11 Wood?

12 MR. WOOD: Yes.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: 5 to 2. I

14 apologize, Mr. Wood.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: The next is the

17 position of the clerk. Any nominations for the

18 clerk's position?

19 MR. PEDRO: I nominate Brian

20 Pearson.

21 MR. WOOD: Second.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pedro votes for

23 **Brian Pearson, second by Mr. Wood. Any further**
24 **nominations for clerk? Any further nominations**
25 **for clerk? Any further nominations for clerk?**

8

1 **I deem that the position close. On a roll call**
2 **vote?**

3 **MR. PEARSON: Yes.**

4 **MS. BEAULIEU: No.**

5 **MR. WOOD: Yes.**

6 **MR. KELLY: No.**

7 **MRS. CROWLEY: Yes.**

8 MR. PEDRO: Yes.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: The chair votes yes,

10 5 to 2. Congratulations, Mr. Pearson.

11 MR. COSTA: The next item on the

12 agenda is the Appointments and

13 Subcommittees/School Liaisons. I would like to

14 have Mr. Pearson, as clerk, read off the

15 appointments to subcommittees and school

16 liaisons.

17 MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Mr.

18 Chairman. The following appointments for

19 2008-2010 sub-committees. For the finance

20 sub-committees, Chairperson, Brian Kelly;

21 members, Brian Pearson, Lisa Beaulieu. For the
22 Personnel Subcommittee, Brian Pearson,
23 Chairperson; members, Earl Wood and Brian Kelly.
24 For the Curriculum Subcommittee, Chairperson
25 Lisa Beaulieu; members, Rosa Crowley and Earl

1 Wood. For the Facilities and Technologies
2 Sub-Committees, Chairperson, Earl Wood; members,
3 Brian Pearson and Dan Pedro. For the
4 Alternative Resource Committee, Rosa Crowley,
5 members, Lisa Beaulieu and Dan Pedro. For the

6 Rules and Regulations SubCommittees,

7 Chairperson, Dan Pedro, members, Brian Kelly and

8 Rosa Crowley. The following will apply for

9 School Liaisons: For Cumberland High School,

10 Brian Pearson and Lisa Beaulieu; for North

11 Cumberland, Earl Wood and Brian Kelly; for

12 Mc Court Middle School, Don Costa; for B.F.

13 Norton School, Rosa Crowley; for Garvin School,

14 Dan Pedro; for John J. McLaughlin Cumberland

15 Hill School, Earl Wood; for Community School,

16 Brian Kelly, and for Ashton School, Lisa

17 Beaulieu.

18 MS. MORELLE: Is there a liaison

19 for the Cumberland Preschool Center?

20 MR. COSTA: That's B.F. Norton.

21 MS. MORELLE: And could you repeat

22 the liaison to North Cumberland Middle School?

23 MR. PEARSON: Earl Wood and Brian

24 Kelly.

25 MS. MORELLE: Also, just a

10

1 question. Are you making appointments to the

2 liaisons for the Cumberland Special Education

3 Advisory Counsel at this time, or the Woonsocket

4 Career and Technical Center?

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: I know about the

6 liaison for the Advisory, the special ed, but I

7 totally forgot about the Woonsocket Technical.

8 We could have, if she wouldn't mind, Rosa

9 Crowley, I believe she was the liaison to the

10 Woonsocket Technical a few years back. Would

11 you mind taking Woonsocket Technical?

12 MS. CROWLEY: I don't mind.

13 MS. MORELLE: Thank you, Mr. Costa.

14 MR. COSTA: And as far as the

15 Special Ed Advisory Committee, any volunteers,

16 anybody wishes to -- they meet the first

17 Wednesday of every month at the Cumberland
18 Library. Okay. Lisa Beaulieu as the Cumberland
19 Special Ed Advisory Committee. Dr. Morelle,
20 that concludes the Cumberland Town Council. I'd
21 like to put a hold on that for the time being,
22 okay?

23 MS. MORELLE: That's fine. May I
24 ask, could you clarify the names of the
25 sub-committees.

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a list.

2 MS. MORELLE: Thank you.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe that

4 covers the sub-committees and school liaisons,

5 Dr. Morelle, with the exception of the Town

6 Council's Liaison?

7 MS. MORELLE: Are we substituting

8 Facilities and Technologies sub-committees for

9 Properties Sub-Committees?

10 MR. ROTELLA: There's nothing on

11 the agenda that constitutes to do that.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Morelle, just

13 put it under properties, like we had before, for

14 the time being.

15 **MS. MORELLE:** And was the other one
16 that I heard mentioned, Alternative Resources?

17 The standing committee before was Special
18 Programs, so that's Special Programs?

19 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes.

20 **MS. MORELLE:** I think that I have
21 all the information. Thank you.

22 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Dr.
23 Morelle. Next item on the agenda is Home School
24 Instruction Request of 2008/2009 school year.
25 Dr. Carney?

1 **MS. CARNEY:** Yes, you have two new
2 requests in front of you this evening. We
3 looked at the programs that are to be followed
4 and we recommend that you approve.

5 **MR. PEARSON:** So moved.

6 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Motion by Mr.
7 Pearson to approve the Home School Instruction
8 Request for the 2008/2009 school year.

9 **MRS. BEAULIEU:** Second.

10 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Second by Mrs.
11 Beaulieu. Any discussion? Hearing none. All
12 those in favor, against? The ayes have it,

13 7 to 0.

14 Next on the agenda is the Approval

15 of the Minutes, the open session of 10/09/08.

16 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.

17 MR. WOOD: Second.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any discussion?

19 Hearing none. All those in favor, against?

20 MR. PEARSON: No.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: 6 to 2. Roll call?

22 MRS. CROWLEY: Yes.

23 MR. PEDRO: Yes.

24 MR. PEARSON: No.

25 MRS. BEAULIEU: Yes.

1 MR. WOOD: Yes.

2 MR. KELLY: Yes.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: The chair votes yes,

4 6 to 2. Next is 10/23/08. Motion to approve

5 the Open Session on 10/23/308.

6 MR. WOOD: So moved.

7 MRS. CROWLEY: Second.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? Hearing

9 none. All in favor, against?

10 MR. KELLY: No.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: 6 to 1. Next item

12 on the agenda is the Approval of Executive

13 Session of 10/9/08.

14 MRS. BEAULIEU: So moved.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wood?

16 MR. WOOD: We didn't see those.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

18 MR. WOOD: Motion to table?

19 MR. PEARSON: Second.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favor,

21 against?

22 MS. BEAULIEU: No.

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: 6 to 1 to table the

24 Executive Sessions of 10/09/08.

25 The next is the comments from the

14

1 public. Mr. Rotella, do we have any comments

2 from the public, do we have a list? We see one

3 gentleman up there waving his finger. Is that

4 Mr. McLaughlin?

5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Ladies and

6 gentlemen, I'd like to congratulate you, God

7 bless and good luck. For the former members of

8 the school committee, I'd like to thank them for

9 their time and service. The first thing I
10 wanted to say tonight is Sunday night we'll be
11 hosting a meatball and spaghetti dinner. St.
12 Thomas Knights of Columbus. It will be from 5
13 to 8, tickets are \$10, and like to see you show
14 your support.

15 Also, December 20th we'll be
16 hosting a Christmas of giving. In this tight
17 economy, there's a lot of people hurting in the
18 Town of Cumberland, and we're going to do our
19 best to get something started to help them
20 financially. So with that said, good luck all
21 of you, God bless and keep the bickering to a

22 minimum. Thank you.

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr.

24 McLaughlin. Mr. Richard Otto?

25 MR. OTTO: I'd like to ask if you

15

1 can restart the process of videoing the school

2 committee meeting. I miss that. I do see we

3 have a stenographer, and I know they're

4 expensive. I don't know if the videography is

5 less expensive. You might want to consider that

6 in our budget.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Otto.

8 MS. BEAULIEU: We're working with

9 the network manager from the Town Council to

10 bring the similar video feed that the council

11 has, so you'll be able to access it from the, I

12 don't know whether it would be the town's

13 website or the school website, but it will be in

14 the similar feed that will be available.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Higgins.

16 MR. HIGGINS: Mr. James Higgins?

17 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Chairman, one

18 other thing. The meeting is being videotaped,

19 and it's being videotaped from our booth.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr.

21 Rotella.

22 MR. HIGGINS: Ladies and gentlemen

23 congratulations on your victories, and we know

24 that you all have worked hard to get where you

25 for the purpose that you are here for, and that

16

1 is to support children and education in

2 Cumberland. On behalf of the Town Council, some

3 of you with me tonight, Councilor Lemoy,

4 Councilor Kirkpatrick, Councilor Ashton. I know

5 Councilor Albuquerque is in the back. Councilor
6 Dwyer is also here. Councilor Morris extends
7 her apologies for not being able to be here. On
8 behalf of all of us, we look forward to working
9 with you in these tight economic times, it's
10 going to be a challenge, but we'll try to do the
11 best we can, as long as we keep up with the
12 lines of communication that we have established
13 in the last two years, I feel that it will be
14 success, so good luck.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr.
16 Higgins. Next on the agenda is the School
17 Committee Comments. Any School Committee

18 **Comments?**

19 **MR. WOOD: Just a reminder that**

20 **junior classes have their ring ceremony this**

21 **Monday night. The school committee is welcome,**

22 **6:00, I believe, here in the auditorium.**

23 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kelly?**

24 **MR. KELLY: Just a couple of**

25 **points. Not that I take offense to paying the**

17

1 **stenographer, the stenographer earning their**

2 **money, but we've all seen in the paper that the**

3 state's facing a \$375 million dollar budget gap
4 this year, approximately \$500 million next year.
5 I believe that the clerk of the school committee
6 should be able to ably take the minutes, and
7 this is no reflection on the current
8 stenographer here. It costs us an average of
9 \$700 a meeting, money that will be put to good
10 use elsewhere, especially with the tight budgets
11 that are coming up. No offense to the police
12 officer. I would hope that we would also
13 eliminate the need for a police officer here and
14 I would ask that those two items be placed on
15 agenda for the next meeting. Thank you.

16 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Dr. Morelle, can we
17 have it for the December meeting?

18 **MS. MORELLE:** I'd be happy to
19 discuss those items with you, and at least one
20 of those items might better to be discussed in
21 executive session, the matter of the police
22 officer, police detail.

23 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any other school
24 committee comments? Mrs. Beaulieu?

25 **MRS. BEAULIEU:** I would also like

1 to request a few items on the agenda, given our
2 past struggles on the committee, I'd like to see
3 a code of conduct established for the committee,
4 and for the committee to work together on that.

5 I think a dress code would be in order to offer
6 a degree of professionalism, I think the public
7 expects that from us, and I'd also like to have
8 an agreement of confidentiality established
9 between the school committee, given that there
10 seems to be some severe compromises of the
11 confidential nature of some of the executive
12 session's information. I'd like to ensure that
13 the committee is accepting of the agreement to

14 protect the privacy of what occurs in executive
15 session. And lastly, I just wanted to go on the
16 record that I am concerned with the choice of
17 chair, given the circumstances we've had in the
18 past, and I believe my vote reflects that.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
21 Mrs. Beaulieu. On the subject of code of
22 conduct and the confidentiality, I believe we
23 could put that under rules and regs. Would that
24 be okay?

25 MRS. BEAULIEU: That's fine, and I

1 have one other thing to add. And the last
2 thing, there's a memorandum of agreement between
3 the chairperson and the school department, and I
4 want to ensure to have Chairman Costa make sure
5 that remains in effect.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: I have no problem.

7 Any other further comments from the school
8 committee people?

9 I would like to make a few
10 comments. One is, I would like to thank the
11 committee for their support on naming me the

12 chair. I also have made a commitment to the
13 education of the children in this community,
14 that's foremost on my mind right now, is to
15 continue, roll up our sleeves, and we have some
16 work ahead of us, and I've made a full
17 commitment to this committee, and I have made a
18 commitment in this memorandum that I will act in
19 proper manner, behavior, and professional at all
20 times and courteous and respectful. This is the
21 position of the chair. What's been done in the
22 past has been done.

23 Right now I'm concentrating on a
24 new beginning. I'm going to roll up my sleeves

25 and do the best I possibly can to move this

20

1 committee forward and for the main purpose of
2 the education of our children in the Cumberland
3 School District. Thank you.

4 MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I make
5 a motion to adjourn.

6 MR. PEDRO: Second.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favor,
8 against? The ayes have it, 7 to 0. Thank you.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:25 P.M.)

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1 **C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E**

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3 **I, PAULA J. CAMPAGNA, CSR, a Notary**
Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing is
4 **a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my**
notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

5

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my
6 **hand this 26th day of November, 2008.**

7

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12 **PAULA J. CAMPAGNA, CSR, NOTARY PUBLIC/CERTIFIED**
13 **COURT REPORTER**

13

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: March 30, 2010

14

15

IN RE: Cumberland School Committee Meeting

16

DATE: November 13, 2008

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